

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, no claims have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 have been cancelled. Claims 10-13 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paromtchik et al. (US 2002/0027652) (hereinafter "Paromtchik") in view of Bartsch et al. (US 6,459,955) (hereinafter "Bartsch").

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 have been cancelled.

Claims 10-13

Claim 10 recites: "...wherein a plurality of reflecting traces corresponding to a plurality of command patterns are combined and stored as a single command pattern in the memory." The Office Action relies on 6:34-6:60 of Bartsch to show this feature of claim 10.

This section of Bartsch discusses that: "As used herein the word "map" or "mapping" refers to a data structure stored in a computer memory means such as read and write memory, magnetic media, optical media, or the like which represents a task environment. This data may include but is not limited to a stored schedule of actions such as the number of encoder pulses per unit time from each of the locomotion motors, the compass direction per unit time, or relative position coordinates (e. g. triangulated position from sonar, light, or other beacon means, and other stored or calculated data against which real time sensor inputs can be compared to guide a mobile, computer operated platform or task performing components thereof such as manipulators, projectors, dispensing means, spray pumps, and so on. The map typically is initially built by a user manually leading the home cleaning robot through a set of desired actions or motions or the user doing so by remote direction. More data may be added adaptively during operation such as when obstacles are encountered. In a simple example a platform with two drive wheels may be manually pushed along a desired path. The output of optical, magnetic, or mechanical encoders on each drive wheel, a series of pulses, are recorded as a count per unit time for each encoder and stored in a memory means by the microprocessor under program control. The data storage means may be onboard the mobile home cleaning robot or located

remotely via a wireless communications link or the Internet or some combination thereof.”
Bartsch, 6:34-6:60.

It is respectfully submitted that this section of Bartsch, nor any other, discusses the technical feature of claim 10 of combining a plurality of reflecting traces corresponding to a plurality of command patterns storing them as a single command pattern in the memory. Specifically, the Bartsch only discusses manipulation of the robot along a single path without ever discussing that more than one reflecting traces would ever be combined.

The Office Action further notes that Paromtchik may also be relied on to show an improved control function similar to that recited in claim 10. However, it is respectfully submitted that the technical feature in claim 10 of combining a plurality of reflecting traces corresponding to a plurality of command patterns storing them as a single command pattern in the memory is even more unlikely in Paromtchik because Paromtchik discusses a plurality of robots each operating under their own, separate command pattern.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 patentably distinguishes over Paromtchik and Bartsch. This technical feature of claim 10 provides a control method for a robot system which reduces cost, further provides for easy and safe operation.

Claims 11-13 depend on claim 10 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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